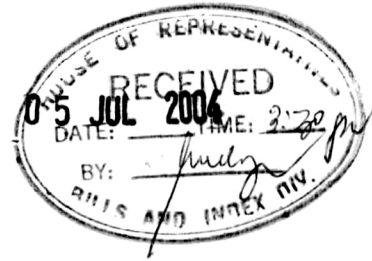


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL No. 1090

Introduced by *HON. ANTONIO P. YAPHA, JR., M.D.*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to institutionalize a national screening program for Filipinos for the early detection of breast cancer.

Cancer ranks 3rd in lead cause of morbidity and mortality in the Philippines. Breast cancer, which affects more women than men, is the most prevalent of these. In 1993, the incidence of breast cancer was approximately 8,421 new cases, and rose to 9,436 in 1998.

Filipinos however, remained resolute in not seeing doctors despite detection of lumps in their breasts because of economic and cultural reasons. Cancer, especially for the poor is understood to cause doom, poverty and premature death. Filipinos also holds this general but wrong notion that a woman's relationship and sexuality is threatened whenever the breast is affected or excised.

And despite the aggressive information campaign of the Department of Health and other cooperating agencies for self-breast examination, this type of cancer has remained the number one enemy of women.

This bill, thus seeks to compel local government units in cooperation with the DOH, to conduct a quarterly breast cancer detection tests, to help ease the burden of public hospitals in treating advanced, complicated and terminal cases and reduce the number of breast cancer-related deaths.

This early detection program against breast cancer will serve the long-term health benefits of Filipinos. Early stage will be immediately assessed and referred for treatment (i.e., radiotherapy or cobalt, chemotherapy) or surgery as well as counseling from public health providers while advanced cases will be referred for intensive medical treatment and also for the counseling.

The effort to persuade Filipinos for early detection may be tedious but in the medium and long run, this preventive measure will slowly teach women to know their bodies and educate them about sexuality and teach them to detect diseases. For those affected, the Program will definitely help them recoup losses in the health, social and economic aspects of their lives and may even prevent complications and early deaths. The Program will also help government reduce health costs especially in its battle against cancer particularly on breast cancer.

With this bill, there is hope the Philippines will be able to fight breast cancer down to the barangay levels.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. ANTONIO P. YAPHA, JR., M.D.

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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL No. 1090

Introduced by *HON. ANTONIO P. YAPHA, JR., M.D.*

AN ACT

REQUIRING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO CONDUCT A
QUARTERLY BREAST CANCER DETECTION PRORAM

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “**Breast Cancer Detection Act of 2004.**”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State that health is a basic human right that must be enjoyed by all its citizens , and that the government shall endeavor to prevent and control diseases among population at risk; and treat, manage and rehabilitate individuals affected by disease and disability.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- (a) “Breast Cancer Detection, Breast Screening Program, Program” – the breast examination program.
- (b) Infiltrating/invasive ductal carcinoma – malignant cancerous growth.
- (c) Local Government Units – the municipal, city or provincial government units of the Philippines.
- (d) Breast Surgery – the removal of breast/s.
- (e) Radiotherapy – the application of X-ray in destroying cancer cells in the body.
- (f) Chemotherapy – the administration of medicines to destroy cancer cells.

SECTION 4. Screening Program. - The Local Government Units are hereby directed, thru its local health officers and in close coordination with the Department of Health, to hold a quarterly manual or mammogram breast cancer screening program.

The Program will utilize the services of the Barangay/Municipal/City Provincial Health Workers in identifying breast cancer cases and positive cases will be immediately referred to public health hospitals for treatment, management and rehabilitation. The Health Workers concerned shall then maintain case record on each individual found positive of breast cancer.

SECTION 5. Linkages and Support from Other Sectors. - Appropriate linkages, coordination and support with health-related sectors and Non-Government Organizations with anti-breast cancer programs shall be established and maintained.

SECTION 6. Advocacy. - Promotional and advocacy activities of the Program will make use of existing forms of media communications such as public service announcements in radio and television, public fora and the generation of pamphlets for dissemination to target clientele. Commitments from partner agencies in the form of cost-sharing arrangements will be enjoined to ensure success of the Program.

SECTION 7. Monitoring and Evaluation. = The LGUs in coordination with the Department of Health and partner agencies should constantly assess the Program by way of periodic/spot reporting and inter-LGU field visits for submission to the Department of Health.

SECTION 8. Finds. -The amount of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) for Provincial Government, Seventy-Five Thousand Pesos (P75,000.00) for the City Government and Fifty Thousand (P50,000.00) shall be earmarked annually from the respective Internal Revenue Allotment of these local government units concerned for the implementation of this Program.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. - If for any reason of provisions of this Act, or any portion thereof, or the application of such section, provision or portion thereof to any person, group or circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected by such declaration and shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, administrative orders, ruled and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effect. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved